

a fair wage, a fair treatment in their workplace, DAVID BONIOR is the first to be there to understand the problem and the first on the floor to talk about righting that wrong.

The people of Michigan are so fortunate to have this person in elective office. I hope they have the good wisdom to select him as governor because he is going to be a great leader in this country as a governor, as he was a Member of the House of Representatives. He rose to a leadership position. Who knows, if he were staying here, he could have been Speaker of the House, perhaps Vice President of the country, and maybe those days will still come.

But this is truly one of the great Members serving in a great institution at a great time in our history. This institution is going to suffer with his leaving, but the people of Michigan I hope will have the great wisdom to keep him in the public limelight and keep him in public office by electing him as their governor.

(By unanimous consent, Ms. KAPTUR was allowed to speak out of order for 5 minutes.)

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DAVID E. BONIOR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say what a joy it has been in my life for 19 years to be able to work with the great gentleman from the State of Michigan, DAVE BONIOR. There must be something in the water of Lake Michigan and Lake Erie to produce the Phil Harts of this country and the Dave Boniors. I want to thank the Wolverine State for sending this incredibly decent human being here to the Congress of the United States.

There are many things I like about DAVE BONIOR. The first thing I like is his wife. I think Judy is just so incredible and what a great partnership they do have. But I like the way that he treats her. I like the way he treats the Members. I watch the way he treats people, always with great love and with affection and with such great passion for the work that he does.

We have had so many fights here that deal with economic justice domestically and internationally. DAVE BONIOR has always been at the head of that line. He has always been leading us. I can remember during the great fight on the rules that would govern trade in the Americas, as he stood here and he talked about what would happen to working people on this continent in the factories and on the farms, I was sitting out there with tears in my eyes; and I thought, how could he have the strength and the intestinal fortitude, knowing what is going to happen, to stand there and to be such a strong advocate and to maintain his passion and his composure. That was a point in my career where I could not have done that.

I hope that from him I have learned how to do that better, and I thank him

for what he is, because what he is has kept other Members here and running for office because of his beliefs and his unwillingness to change who he is and who he represents and how he loves people, that it is still possible to be here and to carry those values so close to your heart. In fact, they are his heart.

I just want to say from the Buckeye State, always a competitor to those to the north, that we deeply, deeply appreciate your service to the people of our country and the world. We appreciate your service as a spokesman for those who have no voice or who have less voice. You have never wavered, you have always been a gentleman, you have always been a leader, you have always been a scholar.

It has been my deep privilege to serve with you, Congressman DAVE BONIOR of Michigan. May you be Michigan's next governor. I only wish I could vote for you. God bless you.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. KAPTUR. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. WU. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the wonderful thing about being a junior Member is that all the large issues are thoroughly addressed by others. I just want to focus briefly for one moment on how DAVE BONIOR has treated fellow Members and me.

I have seen him defend others with whom he deeply disagrees. I have seen his gentle guidance on sensitive votes. And I also wanted to share just briefly how well he treated me as a very new Member of Congress. With a name that starts with W, I was definitely last in my class. Yet he spent a chunk of time with me early on when it was just of benefit to me and clearly of no benefit to him.

But we spent some time together. I learned many, many things, but I want to mention three specific things that he said to me: There is a small lunchroom where you should share food with other Members and get to know them. Be sure to get some exercise. And there is a spiritual piece to being here and you should pay attention to that, also.

It took me 6 months to eat lunch with any regularity. After being here for 3 years, I think I am finally getting to the exercise piece. And I am working hard toward the spiritual piece. I tell this story because I think that it is an allegory for DAVE as he goes on to the governor's race and far beyond, because as we are eating lunch or getting exercise or becoming more spiritual, for DAVE BONIOR, for this country as a whole, it is always the case that the best is yet to be, the best of life for which the rest was meant.

Thank you, DAVE, for treating everyone, large, small and in the middle with grace and with dignity. Thank you very, very much.

(By unanimous consent, Ms. WOOLSEY was allowed to speak out of order for 5 minutes.)

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DAVID E. BONIOR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, we have people here who make a very major contribution. There are partisan differences in this body, too many to my judgment, but when a person here is retiring from an important post and still going to make some contributions here, no doubt, I think he ought to be recognized for the extraordinary public service that he has provided here.

I admire DAVE BONIOR for the kind of person he is as well as for his effectiveness. I was thinking just yesterday, if I might say to the gentleman from Michigan, about you and the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. EVANS, because to your credit some years ago, you helped Mr. Cavanaugh and I, two Nebraskans, deauthorize the O'Neill project, which made it possible for us to subsequently declare the Niobrara River as a scenic river. It is the most appreciated ecological feature in the State of Nebraska by its citizens today.

So we actually owe you a debt of gratitude in Nebraska. You stepped up and helped John Cavanaugh and this Member at that time, along with Mr. EVANS. I want to commend you for your public service, but also thank you, as a Nebraskan, for what you did to preserve part of our natural heritage.

I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I was watching C-Span and I heard all these fine words about DAVE BONIOR. I thought, "My God, something has happened. He's dead. What a shame."

I came down here, he looks very good and the only thing that is happening to him is, he is going to be governor of the great State of Michigan and certainly while it is our loss, it is Michigan's gain.

In this institution, given all of the political and economic and financial pressures that are on all the Members, it is very difficult to hold out a moral compass, to be very sure that the values that you are fighting for are what you believe. It is doubly difficult to do that year after year. The first year you could do it and the second year, but after many years, it becomes harder and harder to do.

I think on virtually every issue affecting the lives of working people, whether it is helping people join unions and fight for their dignity there, whether it is developing a sane trade policy which protects the needs of American workers or raising the minimum wage or affordable housing or all the things that millions and millions of working families need, year after year, right up here, at this podium, DAVE BONIOR has been leading the fight. We are very proud of him, not just because

he is a good politician; because of the strong sense of morality and values that motivate him.

DAVID, you have been an inspiration to all of us. My wife says that you are her second favorite Congressman. I am not sure who the first one is, to tell you the truth, but we are going to miss you very much and the people of Michigan are very lucky to have you.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maine.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, like the gentleman from Vermont, I was in my office watching C-Span. I looked at all these bright faces down here in the front rows, DAVID BONIOR's staff and DAVID sitting down here, as well, and I could see him so I knew he was not gone; but I did want to come over and say a few things about DAVE BONIOR.

First of all, DAVID, I just want to thank you for all you have done for me. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate having been part of the whip organization and having the chance to work with Members here on the floor to make sure that the right thing gets done on particular pieces of legislation.

For those who do not know all the details, the whip organization is really a way of bringing information to other Members so that they are voting with good information and not necessarily bad information, that they have complete information. DAVID has done this job extraordinarily well for many years.

But beyond that, I have to say, this is a city, not alone in the country, but this is a city where people's faces can turn and their votes can turn to those who have money and to those who have power. But not with DAVID BONIOR. Because DAVID BONIOR in the House of Representatives has been what I think the Founding Fathers expected of a Representative, that he would represent all of the people all of the time and not be diverted by special interests. I cannot think of anyone in this Congress who has consistently day after day after day, in a long legislative career, kept the people in his district right in the forefront of his mind. He has not forgotten them ever in terms of what he does here and what we do here.

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So I think it is a remarkable career and he is a remarkable human being.

As I have gotten to know DAVID over the last 5 years here, several things have struck me. One is that he treats everyone the same, which is, as I said, not common in this place, and that he is receptive to information and to people from all walks of life.

But the other thing I have noticed is you know where DAVID BONIOR comes from. He comes from Michigan, and in many respects my image of Michigan is shaped by you, DAVID, because I know how important working men and women who have had to join unions in order to get ahead, to have decent wages and decent benefits, have been to

your State. Yet I know your State has such incredible diversity, with aspects of the new economy as well, with the service economy, as well as the manufacturing economy, and you seem to have somehow captured all of those threads.

I know from your remarks before the Democratic Caucus yesterday that you also have appreciation for the outdoors. I come from Maine, and this is real important to me. But I know how much you have walked around the State, how much time you spend on your own, getting away from this hurly-burly, in order to renew yourself so that you can do the best thing, day-to-day, for the people who sent you here to the House and who I believe will send you to the Governor's mansion in Michigan.

I cannot help but think that, to me, you have always been someone who has Michigan in his bones, Michigan in his blood, and Michigan in his dreams, and I know that you will be a fabulous governor for the people of Michigan. Thank you very much.

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to speak out of order for 5 minutes.)

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DAVID E. BONIOR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this is not the time to recount the full Congressional career of DAVE BONIOR, because he continues to build on that record, but I would like to speak for a moment about the way that he does the job of whip, the job he is leaving within the House now.

We all know that there is a strong competitive streak in DAVE BONIOR. We have seen it on the baseball field, we have seen it in close votes, but we also see that in everything he does he exudes decency and civility.

Civility has been talked about so much in this House in recent years. When I say DAVE BONIOR exudes civility, I mean that it is really contagious. And when I look at his staff, some of his staff here with him today, I know that they would agree with me that they do their jobs better and probably would agree that they are better people because of their association with DAVE BONIOR and the way he does his job, which helps them do their job, and helps all of us here in Congress do our job.

It is a remarkable ability that DAVE BONIOR has to improve the performance of everyone round them so that competition does not mean meanness, and it does not lead to a lack of civility.

The way you do the job as whip, DAVE BONIOR, is a model for every public servant. We will talk about all you have done in your Congressional will career later after we are congratulating you for your election as Governor. But, for now, I want to thank you for what you have done for each of us individually here in the House of Representatives.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I was sitting in my office planning to do some work before I drive back to Indianapolis, and saw this very special man was being praised today, a man who is worthy of praise, a hero who has earned his medal of honor, if you will.

DAVID BONIOR knew JULIA CARSON before JULIA CARSON knew DAVID BONIOR. When I first declared my candidacy for this august body, he was one of the first people who obviously believed that I was going to get elected and came out to Indiana to do what he could with his resources and his brain power.

Even beyond that, DAVID BONIOR has struck me as the perfect illustration of family values. A lot of us get up to the microphone, and we tap dance about family values and we waive the flag and my country tis of Thee and God bless America. But DAVID BONIOR has never missed the mark in terms of what is great and good and right for the American family and the United States of America. He is a gentleman's gentleman, he is a politician's politician, he is a family man par excellence.

I do not want to look at him because I am going to cry, but I love DAVID BONIOR and I want to tell you that.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I, like JULIA CARSON, was sitting in my office and I heard the tribute, and I wanted to come over for just a couple of seconds and highlight I think DAVE's contributions to this institution, but, most importantly, to the American family.

DAVID BONIOR's sense of America is community, and what he means by community is a place where nobody is ever to be abandoned and nobody is ever to be left behind.

One of the best speeches I ever heard on this House floor came the night that DAVID led us in opposition to the NAFTA treaty, when he raised the question for all of us here that night of what the Edmond Pettis Bridge meant to a generation of Americans, and what it meant to cross that bridge, what it meant to have a sense of justice and fairness and equity in this life, a catholic sense of justice; fairness, equity, the notion that you just cannot walk by the poor, that you just cannot abandon them and turn your back, that government is there in the end to help them.

Another thing I am going to say about DAVID, in an institution that really troubles me, because many of the people that have gotten here on both sides of the aisle, they have run this institution into the ground day in and day out with their diatribes on what has always been wrong, and then they abandon in the next breath term limits, they abandoned the line item